4/13/70

Dick and Howard,

Letters from each of you postmarked 4/9 arrived today, fast from Dick, slow from Howard, who also reports inordinate delay and strange handling and non-cancellation of one of my old letters, so there will be more ellipsis. But rather than write each of you separately, with carbons, I write both.

First of all, with what I told you I was doing, I am now without doubt of the validity of what Howard will recall I spotted when I saw his pix of 399. You know it from Metters, Dick. It is very real. I tried without success to make electrostatic copies. I'll try on Bud's machine when I am in DC and if that fails I'll risk mail. I presume you have Howard's anyway.

Howard, do not underestimate Lifton. This is his standard approach. He has just gotten an enormous amount of old material from CD 5,7, and 205, as I recall. However, there is great value in going over what we may not have understood earlier/ These are among the first files I checked. Do not expect to pull anything on him. He is very sharp. His word is without meaning and he is dying to do something with meaning. You know his three-assassins was old when he did it and unoriginal. In fact, where he credited, he usually did not credit original sources, either." I doubt that business of the attitudes of individual staff members. Epstein did it. I think that is his cover for getting what you have on Specter. You should also remember he considers himself the lone genius and this leads him to the most tortured interpretations that can haunt you. All the stuff he told you about I either have or decided was valueless. None of it is new. I'm delighted to finally hear you say you are past such a stage. Few ever acknowledge it and I think it is vital. Pix, he has, aside from what he has gotten himself, which can be much, all of Tink's. He probably has Sprague's also. Do not misunderstand "Unpublished" as it relates to (some of) the Gemberling reports. This means nothing withheld, only what is not in the 26. You are right to staff entirely away from the medical, which I know he wants for he has been trying to get my material and may have some. If you make a deal with him on the Specter-Tink debate, do not try and work something in for me for that will reduce what he will be willing to give you for it. But do remember, his relations with Tink are such he does have Tink's pix while Tink is abroad. Make the deal before you send anything and then you'd be wise to make the dub for him, adding the cost of that to what you want. There is no reason not to give him a dub, but get something for it. He will not tell you this, but I understand xeroxing costs him nothing, so you should be able to strike a better bargain than he may offer, for he sells xeroxes even to friends, even of the materials others got. Would you expect him to be other than friendly when he is trying to get something from you? The legal basis of the worth of his promise is nothing. The basis in his personality and character are what you should consider.

Nichols: please be extremely guarded in all and any conversations with him and stay 100% away from me and my materials. Be very careful, please. He is a real problem. Do not try and pump him for what he has but listen to what he offers. And by all means tape, and regard him as an expert as you would Fil, an I think he'll like this. But do not be deceived. It is not for such purposes he will want to see you. John isstrange and I think he may be a different kind of man than you've had experience with. He turned Gary off, Gery says he is also paranoid. Everybody is stealing from him. What I have yet to learn. But he is also bright and expert, including in ballistics.

FBI EX 60: Arch does not have photograph, only printed copy. Ask FBI for two copies. Photographs only.

South knoll: don't spend a cent on pix. Only a zany would have lingered long enough to be pictured. Not even a second would any riflemen have remained.

Black Star: They been giving me the runaround on prints of the rooming house. Remember the contacts I showed you? If they will let you have, get one of the curtains being out up for me. The one of Johnson on the bed, hammer in hand. They have held me off for a year. I gave up.

Most of what Mick says in 4/9 requires no comment and we are in accord. On the possible switch, this bears a remarkable parallel to a possibility in the Brown case (HOward, that story was very helpful), which also involved Fisher's office. I now have Spitz on tape but haven't had a chance to hear it. He is second to Fisher.

Court/panel: Much time. I await Mitchell's response which he'll probably never make. Then I'll file with his default specified and thus let him plead he can frustrate the law by ignoring it. But you'll know timing. My worry will be getting the funds to pay the expenses of the unfriendly witnesses. Cyril has never answered me on his willingness.

Strange that you should note, re 399 and their scale, I bought two of my own to use and I apparently let them talk me into using theirs! The why question remains, but I think the answer is the one I gave. I'll be pushing for an explanation. John, embarrassed by this added thievery, and it so early, has never sent me a copy of "his" or of his order.

Do not waste money on copying my suit. I am not yet out of copies, only short.

Bomb detonation: Device is exaggeration. I have participated in setting off dynamite in building my own home. It requires no more than a flashlight battery and the touching of two wires. I think, in effect, this is what there was, the clock serving the purpose you indicate is your belief also. Can you send me the Newsweek Kleindienst quote-story? I suggest you consider an added interpretation, he is aware of the deficiencies of the case and lab work/interpretation.

Penn: Alas, only too true. Trying anything is a waste. He's past that.

Your dog must be a delight, as should the combination of pup/kids. And relaxing. But I can't have them, rabbits, Mallards that come to the door and demand to be fed (and stay within two feet of me to eat), quail who almost duplicate this, and these, too, are delights.

Don bother with Teddy stuff. I began with clippings but abandoned. Unless you see what may have relevance.

Time to go for Lil. Rest and thanks to you both,

Sincerely

Howard: Summer-of course.